Amendment to the claims:

1-33. (canceled)

34. (new) A method for TGF-β screening comprising:

(i)   measuring *ex vivo* a TGF-β level in a body sample of a human or a veterinary animal, wherein the body sample is blood or a fraction thereof;

(ii)   incubating the body sample with a compound selected from the group of a flavanol, a procyanidin and a mixture thereof, and measuring the resulting TGF-β level;

(iii) comparing the TGF-β level obtained in step (i) with the TGF β level obtained in step (ii);

(iv)   when the TGF-β level obtained in step (i) is higher than the TGF-β level obtained in step (ii), designating the human or the veterinary animal as a high baseline TGF-β producer; or when the TGF-β level obtained in step (i) is lower than the TGF-β level obtained in step (ii), designating the human or the veterinary animal as a low baseline TGF-β producer.

35. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the compound in step (ii) is epicatechin.

36. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the compound in step (ii) is a procyanidin dimer.

37. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein TGF-β is TGF-β1.

38. (new) The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of selecting a composition comprising a TGF-β modulating amount of a flavanol, a procyanidin and/or a mixture thereof.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein TGF-β is TGF-β1.

40. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the human or the veterinary animal is a low baseline TGF-β producer, the flavanol is epicatechin, and the procyanidin is selected from the group of a dimer, trimer, tetramer and pentamer.

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41. The method of claim 40, wherein TGF-β is TGF-β1.

42. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the human or the veterinary animal is a low baseline TGF-β producer, and the composition comprises a TGF-β modulating amount of epicatechin.

43. (new) The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of selecting a composition comprising an effective amount of a compound having TGF-β modulating properties.

44. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein TGF-β is TGF-β1.

45. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the human or the veterinary animal is a high baseline TGF-β producer, and the procyanidin is at least one procyanidin oligomer 6-10.

46. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein TGF-β is TGF-β1.

47. (new) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of administering the composition to the human or the veterinary animal.

48. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is a food.

49. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the food is a beverage.

50. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is chocolate.

51. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is a dietary supplement.

52. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is a cocoa extract.

53. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is a cocoa ingredient.

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